



BOROUGH OF WISBECH

and

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



ANNUAL REPORT

*of*

The Medical Officer of Health

M. DOREEN C. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

*and*

The Chief Public Health Inspector

D. BROOK, F.A.P.H.I.

*for the*

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964



P U B L I C  
H E A L T H  
C O M M I T T E E

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR: Councillor B.G. Drew  
CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.H. Miller  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.N. Rigg  
MEMBERS: Alderman Mrs. B.M. Osborn  
Alderman L.H. Rands  
Councillor F. Alberts  
Councillor Mrs. D. Anderson  
Councillor G.G.J. Gibbs  
Councillor R.M. McCaughey  
Councillor Mrs. L.M. Moore  
Councillor Mrs. E. Potter  
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Walker  
Councillor C.A.E. Woolnough

O F F I C E R S

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. M.D.C. Martin M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.  
7 North Brink, Wisbech.  
(Part Time)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D. Brook F.A.P.H.I.  
Exchange Square, Wisbech.

Certificate of the Royal Society  
of Health and Public Health In-  
spectors Examination Joint Board.  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, Royal  
Society of Health.  
Testamur Institute of Public  
Cleansing.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: J.L. Fear M.A.P.H.I.

Certificate of the Royal Society  
of Health and Public Health In-  
spectors Examination Joint Board.  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspectors Certificate  
Royal Society of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R. Sissons M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Certificate of Public Health  
Inspectors Education Board.  
Dip. Inspector of Meat and Food  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspectors Diploma, Royal  
Society of Health.

TRAINEE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

V.J. George (from 3rd August, 1964)

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1964

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my second Annual Report on the Public Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

The most significant incidence of infectious disease during the year was an epidemic of dysentery. Details will be found in the body of the report, but I would like to record here that throughout the period of the epidemic there was a high degree of co-operation between your Health Department and the School Health Service of the County.

In September, 1964 the County Clinic in the Horsefair was opened and has already been a great boon to the mothers and children of Wisbech. All the preventive services for mothers, infants, toddlers and school children are now available in the one place where dental treatment is also carried out.

1964 has been a year of no progress in the local campaign for fluoridation of water supplies. The British Medical Association wrote to all local authorities telling of their support for fluoridation, but the Isle of Ely County Health Committee indicated that they proposed to take no action in support of the campaign.

I would like to record my gratitude to Mr. Brook and the whole staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation at all times. The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee have always shown deep interest in the work of the Department and this I very much appreciate.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

M. DORLEN C. MARTIN M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.



# GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough:	4,666 acres
Estimated resident population mid-1964:	17,520
- ditto - mid-1963:	17,520
Sum realised by a penny rate:	£ 3,364
Rateable value:	£834,176
Number of inhabited houses:	5,659

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u> - 328			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>	
			<u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total:</u>	164	164	19.28		18.06	18.4
Legitimate:	153	149				
Illegitimate:	11	15				

Area Comparability Factor (Births) - 1.03

<u>Still Births - 5</u>			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>		<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>
			<u>Still Birth</u>		<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total:</u>	1	4	15.01		15.54	16.4
Legitimate:	1	4				
Illegitimate:	0	0				

<u>Deaths (all causes) - 243</u>		<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>	
		<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>	
<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>(adjusted)</u>	<u>***</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
Total:	139	104	10.12	10.99	11.3

Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) - .73

Deaths (Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion) - 0

Deaths (Infants under 1 year of age) - 8

			<u>Wisbech Borough</u>	<u>Adminis-</u>	<u>England</u>	
			<u>Infant Mortal-</u>	<u>trative</u>	<u>and</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>ity Rate</u>	<u>****</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Wales</u>
<u>Total:</u>	4	4	21.34		18.31	20
Legitimate:	4	4				
Illegitimate:	0	0				

Deaths of infants in first week of life	-	2
Deaths of infants from 1 week to 4 weeks	-	1
Deaths of infants from 4 weeks to 1 year	-	5

NOTE: \* Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1964 population.  
 \*\* Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).  
 \*\*\* Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1964 population  
 \*\*\*\* Deaths of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

Vital Statistics cont'd .....

Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 year

Pulmonary Atelectasis .....	2
Pneumonia .....	5
Congenital Heart Defect .....	1
	—
Total .....	8
	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 41

Live Birth, Still Birth, Death and Infant Mortality  
Rates during past six years

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
<u>Live Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	16.38	18.63	12.57	17.66	16.81	19.28
Isle of Ely	15.76	16.84	16.94	16.49	16.58	18.06
England and Wales	16.5	17.1	17.4	18	18.2	18.4
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	34.48	47.46	6.47	13.6	6.94	15.01
Isle of Ely	25.9	29.34	17.78	13.51	19.0	15.54
England and Wales	20.7	19.7	19.1	18.1	17.2	16.4
<u>Death Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	14.51	11.07	13.11	14.64	10	10.12
Isle of Ely	11.53	10.82	10.89	11.39	11.68	10.99
England and Wales	11.6	11.5	12	11.9	12.2	11.3
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	28.4	34.37	3.25	22.58	35	21.34
Isle of Ely	25.19	29.55	14.73	37	22.8	18.31
England and Wales	22.2	21.7	21.6	20.7	21.1	20

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk - A.R. Marsh Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - Union Lane, Chesterton, Cambridge

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J.B. Ewen

(a) General

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech
- (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech
- (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
- (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
- (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington
- (6) Barton Road Hospital, Wisbech (Aged Sick)

(b) Maternity

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech

All primiparous mothers may be confined in hospital and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. A few mothers are admitted for very difficult social circumstances.

(c) Infectious Diseases

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough  
Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn

(d) Tuberculosis

The area chest physician holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

In-patient accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

(e) Mental Illness

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

(f) Veneral Disease

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
- (2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
- (3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital

(g) Medical Equipment Service

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.



COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(A) Midwifery, General Sick and Public Health Nursing

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The two full time midwives and relief midwives are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia, pethedine and trilene and the necessary machines approved by the Central Midwives Board are available for their use.

(B) Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

There are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Limited, Norwich Road, Wisbech.

(C) Infant and Child Welfare

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in The Horsefair is held twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The midwives hold an Antenatal Clinic for expectant mothers who are to be confined at home.

(D) School Minor Ailments Clinic

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(E) Home Help Service

Available for confinements, cases of illness and for social reasons in the aged.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Public Health Laboratory Service,  
Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital,  
Midland Road,  
Peterborough.  
(Director: Dr. J. Glencross)

Public Analyst,  
The Laboratory,  
Tenison Road,  
Cambridge.  
(S. Greenburgh P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### Health Education

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and Mother and Baby Care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church Groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, and such requests are readily complied with by the Public Health Department.

Lectures on food hygiene and the work of the department have been given by Mr. Brook and his staff to food handlers at a local canning factory.

### Meals on Wheels

For some years now, the Womens Voluntary Service has provided "Meals on Wheels" service for the aged on 2 days each week. This plays an important part in helping to prevent deterioration of health in the very old who live by themselves. The food is cooked at The Metal Box Canteen and a very small charge is made to the recipients.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children under the age of 1 year who have completed a full course of immunisation against	
Diphtheria during the year .....	119
Between the ages of 1 and 4 years .....	190
Between the ages of 5 and 14 years .....	27
Boosters .....	171

### Notifiable Infectious Diseases - 1964

	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>
Smallpox .....	0
Scarlet Fever .....	12
Diphtheria .....	0
Pneumonia .....	4
Erysipelas .....	2
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0
Enteric Fever .....	0
Measles .....	249
Whooping Cough .....	7
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0
Food Poisoning .....	7
Dysentery .....	177
Chickenpox .....	33

## Notifications of Tuberculosis

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>New Cases</u>	
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
- 1	0	0	0	0
- 5	0	0	0	0
- 15	0	0	0	0
- 25	0	2	0	0
- 45	0	0	0	0
- 65 and over	1	2	1	0
Age unknown	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	4	1	0

## Food Poisoning

Seven cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, four of the cases occurring in one family and the remaining three cases being individuals. In the instance of the family outbreak all members were affected but it was not possible to identify the causative organism or the food involved.

One individual case was found to be due to Staphylococci organisms which are found in boils, septic cuts and in the nose and throat of many people. Such cases are usually the result of bad food handling techniques.

The remaining two cases were due to Salmonellae. One case was apparently contracted whilst on holiday away from Wisbech and the other appeared to be due to the consumption of duck eggs. Duck eggs are particularly liable to be contaminated by Salmonellae and it is recommended that they should be boiled for at least 8 minutes.

## Dysentery

There were 177 cases of Sonne Dysentery notified, the vast majority being associated with an outbreak which occurred in 2 primary schools early in the year. This type of diarrhoea is wellknown for the rapidity of its spread in communities of the very young, the very old and the mentally abnormal, all of which groups of people are less reliable in matters of hygiene than normal adults.

If everyone was absolutely faultless in hand washing after toilet and before eating and food handling, such diseases could not spread. Sonne Dysentery is a real danger to health in babies, the sick and the aged but in other sections of the community it is an insignificant illness in most cases. Apart from the re-emphasis of the importance of hygiene to us all and in particular to food handlers the main lesson to be learned from this epidemic is, I think, the importance of immediate isolation of children with diarrhoea. For too many parents allow a child with loose stools to go to school.



CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1964

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other .....	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	8	3	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	10	11	21
Leukaemia, aleukeamia .....	0	1	1
Diabetes .....	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	18	12	30
Coronary disease, angina .....	30	21	51
Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	2	3
Other heart disease .....	8	10	18
Other circulatory disease .....	3	4	7
Influenza .....	0	0	0
Pneumonia .....	11	11	22
Bronchitis .....	17	1	18
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	4	1	5
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum .....	6	0	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	0	0	0
Congenital malformations .....	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	8	15	23
Motor vehicle accidents .....	2	2	4
All other accidents .....	2	2	4
Suicide .....	2	0	2
Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0
Total .....	139	104	243

Deaths from selected causes during the years  
1960 to 1964

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Lung Cancer	3	7	8	8	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	4	2	4
All other accidents	3	6	9	5	4
Suicide	3	2	4	2	2

I draw your attention to these causes of death as being essentially preventable. The number of deaths from lung cancer, of course, gives no indication of the number of cases diagnosed and successfully treated.



REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth Annual Report covering the year 1964.

The exercise of compiling the following legend is time consuming but affords an opportunity to measure progress, note success and recognise failure.

Slum Clearance continued unabated. A firm schedule to clear over 800 dwellings by 1977 was fixed. A pilot scheme was launched to accelerate Improvement of Dwellings. Constant vigilance was necessary over caravan sites, many young families can only find a home to let by hiring a caravan, few of whom are able to acquire the 'know-how' of successful caravan living.

A marked increase in slaughtering took place in 1964, this merely being a foretaste of future developments. The new Regulations governing Meat Inspection have been introduced and accepted by the trade. Advances were noted in the marketing of fresh fruit and vegetables by the further use of non-returnable containers. But are we sure that all good looking produce is free from chemical or other contamination? There are reports of draft Regulations to tighten up food hygiene in Markets. The introduction of stricter legislation will surely be an opportunity to tackle the problems associated with our own market.

Much time has been taken up in seeking the registration of premises required by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Despite adequate national and local publicity, the year ended with staff engaged upon chasing up the 40% of persons who failed to register. I do not anticipate any major difficulties in seeking full compliance with the new safety, health and welfare standards laid down for non-industrial premises.

It is worth mention that there have been no staff changes, other than the appointment of a student public health inspector. The staff have been most loyal and ready to serve the Council and community in an able manner.

I again record my thanks to the Council and other colleagues for continued active support and co-operation.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:</u>	Complaints -	
	Housing .....	25
	Other .....	134
	Drains inspected and tested ...	178
	Sewer connections and revisits.	46
	Caravans .....	92
	Filthy and Verminous premises..	22
	Infectious diseases .....	322
 <u>HOUSING ACTS:</u>	Inspected and recorded .....	287
	Housing Applications .....	15
	Improvement Grants .....	418
 <u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:</u>	Slaughterhouses .....	933
	Food Hygiene Visits .....	172
	Food Preparation Premises .....	10
	Ice Cream Premises .....	3
	Dairy Premises .....	1
	Market Stalls .....	11
	Unsound Food visits .....	49
 <u>RENT ACT:</u>	Inspection .....	1
 <u>SHOPS ACT:</u>	Inspections .....	5
 <u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits .....	6
 <u>FACTORIES ACT:</u>	Inspections .....	7
 <u>PET ANIMALS ACT AND ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT:</u>	Inspections .....	11
 <u>CLEAN AIR ACT:</u>	Inspections and Observations ..	22
 <u>RODENT CONTROL:</u>	Inspections .....	104
 <u>LITTER ACT:</u>	Inspections .....	0
 <u>PORT HEALTH AREA:</u>	Inspections .....	19
 <u>NOISE ABATEMENT ACT:</u>	Inspections .....	6

# WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board and a mains water supply is available to almost every dwellinghouse in the Borough.

The supply is obtained from shallow bore holes and the River Nar at Marham, Norfolk and has always been satisfactory after initial treatment at the source.

During the summer the Board found it necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water for watering gardens and car washing but some progress is now being made towards the provision of an increased supply.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent effect and no contamination has occurred which called for special action by the department.

The number of houses in the Borough with no internal water supply is 51.

Town - 44

Rural Areas - 7

This shows that roughly 100 people live in accommodation without this amenity but most of the houses involved are in the slum clearance programme for the next few years.

## Examination of Water Supply

The Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough, in addition to which the Department has made use of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The samples taken by the department include mains water from houses, offices and factories and from port hydrants and one sample from a private supply. Following an unsatisfactory result from a port hydrant, discussions took place with Water Board officials on the best ways of improving the supply points and certain measures were agreed but at the present time, no improvements have been carried out.

	Samples Submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Water Board</u>			
Chemical	73	73	Nil
Bacteriological	385	385	Nil
<u>Public Health Department</u>			
Bacteriological	52	51	1



Typical Chemical Analysis

Tapwater 23rd June, 1964, 9.0 a.m.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C .....	0
Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C .....	0
Bact. coli I count per 100 ml. ....	0
Coliform count per 100 ml. ....	0

Physical Characteristics

Appearance .....	Clear and bright	pH. ....	7.1
Turbidity .....	Nil	Odour .....	Nil
Colour .....	Nil	Taste .....	Nil

Chemical Results expressed as parts per million

Free carbon dioxide .....	20.2	Aluminium (Al) ..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C .....	0.14	Calcium (Ca) ...	101.3
Ammoniacal nitrogen .....	0.002	Iron (Fe) .....	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen .....	0.03	Magnesium (Mg) ..	3.67
Nitrate nitrogen .....	6.6	Manganese (Mn) ..	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen .....	Nil	Lead (Pb) .....	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	200	Sodium (Na) .....	15.3
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....		Zinc (Zn) .....	Nil
Total .....	268	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ...	8.4
Carbonate (temporary) .....	200	Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> ) ..	37.6
Non-Carbonate (permanent) ..	68	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) ..	120
Residual chlorine .....	0.23	Chloride (Cl) ..	27.8
Total solids, dried at 180°C.	348	Fluoride (F) ....	0.03

General Remarks

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist  
Wisbech and District Water Board



### Extensions to Mains

Chapnall Road and Stow Road	684 yards.	4" A.C.
Water Gardens, Barton Road	<u>254</u> yards.	3" P.V.C.
Total mains laid .....	<u>938</u> yards	

New connections made in the  
Borough during the year 1964 121

### SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh an open air swimming pool, 132'6" long by 30' wide by 6'6" at deep end and 3'6" at shallow end, giving a capacity of 120,000 gallons.

The source of water used in the bath is the main supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board. The treatment is by a Bell Bros. bath filtration plant using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the baths is changed every 6 hours.

Sixteen samples of water from this bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and all but one were found to be satisfactory.

A further school swimming pool was opened during the year, making a total of three in the Borough. All of the pools are open air, with continuous treatment of the water by filtering and chlorination. The method of chlorination varied from traditional baths practice in using hypochlorite solution and this poses problems of rising pH values. A further difficulty is the heavy and intermittent bathing load with the consequence that the maintenance of free chlorine in the water is not always easy. Where unsatisfactory pool conditions were found to exist, immediate remedial measures were instituted to restore the chlorine value.

My thanks must be again expressed for the help and assistance given by Mr. Collins the water Board Chemist in relation to the problems which arose during the year.

### Sample Results

Pool	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Crabmarsh	15	1
Queen's Boys' School	6	3
Queen's Girls' School	8	1
Peckover School	6	1

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work continued throughout the year on sewer extensions along Canal Road, Elm High and Low Roads, New Drove, Oldfield Lane, Ramnoth Road (part), Weasenham Lane and Westmead Avenue. The length of sewer in Sandal Road and Railway Road became available for use and some properties were connected at the end of the year.

Preparatory work continued in the Borough Engineer's Department in preparing a sewerage scheme for the west side of the town, together with the design of a conventional sewage disposal works. Informal discussions took place with Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils with a view to these authorities considering the advisability of designing village sewerage schemes to link up with any new proposal in the Borough.

The emptying of cesspool cleansing vehicles is a vexed problem, not only in the Borough, but apparently in the neighbouring rural districts. Cesspool emptiers owned by the Borough Council discharge their contents into four selected open inspection chambers along the sewerage system. Occupants of houses near these points become aggravated by the odours emanating from the vehicles. It was agreed to experiment with the use of a stand pipe installation on the North side of the river.

The rural district councils have found great difficulty in finding new outlets for disposal of cesspool contents. Farmers have become reluctant to offer sites for lagoons. One such lagoon is used by the Wisbech Rural District Council off the North Brink, more than two miles away from the town centre within the Borough. Occasional complaints have been made concerning smell from this lagoon, which is apparent at times of emptying vehicles without masking the outlet point. The rural districts have requested permission to empty vehicles into the sewerage system of the Borough. The Borough Council deferred a decision on the matter pending experiments with the standpipe arrangements.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of household refuse was provided throughout the year. All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping along the disused Wisbech Canal at points five miles from the town under the Joint Refuse Disposal Scheme operated by the Wisbech Borough, Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils. During the year, an additional mechanical appliance, a dragline - was purchased to provide more adequate means of excavating soil from the Canal.





- REFUSE DISPOSAL -

A small part of the refuse removed from inside  
an abandoned caravan during the year.









Despite the operation of a regular collection service, augmented whenever necessary by special collection, there is no decrease in the amount of indiscriminate dumping of refuse. Dumping is most noticeable on demolition sites and along disused dykes.

The photograph of a recently vacated caravan may illustrate the refuse problem.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The number of public conveniences remained the same at 8.

Situation	Women	Men	
	W.C'S	W.C'S	Urinals
Barton Road	1	1	2
Horsefair	3	1	6
Market Place	4	3	7
Mount Pleasant	2	1	3
Norfolk Street	3	2	4
Norwich Road	2	1	3
Old Market	3	2	6
The Park	4	2	4

Plans were made in the Cattle Market alterations for the replacement of the urinal by a convenience for men and women which could also be entered from the Chapel Road car park. If it is adequately sign posted, this should help to cater for the needs of people travelling by car through the town.

A small but important improvement was the removal of penny-in-the-slot locks from all the public conveniences.

Misuse and vandalism continued during the year. It was particularly prevalent at the Horsefair conveniences and to a lesser extent at Barton Road. It was noticeable that the more modern and hygienic conveniences suffered least. There appears to be no immediate prospect of the replacement of the Horsefair conveniences as it is included in the redevelopment of the bus station.

## PERSONAL CLEANSING

It was possible to give baths to eleven persons at the Cleansing Station adjacent to the Public Health Department.

The disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and clothing is carried out when necessary by arrangement with the engineer of the Clarkson Hospital.

The disinfection of rooms after infectious disease is rarely required nowadays but, if necessary, would be carried out by the staff of the department.

## MILK

### Registration and Licencing

There are 22 names on the Register of Distributors of milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

### Bacteriological Examination of Milk

149 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

Type of Milk	No. of samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test	
		Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Untreated	24	14	0	0	0	0	0	21	0
Pasteurised	97	70	3	96	1	0	0	0	0
Sterilised	24	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
Cream	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	149	84	7	98	1	24	0	22	0

### Untreated Milk

Of the 24 samples submitted, 10 Methylene Blue Tests were declared void and 3 guinea pigs died from natural causes.

The biological tests showed no evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucella in any of the 21 samples but, in 7 cases, the milk showed slight growth of Staph. aureus. In every case, the information was passed onto either the Public Health Authority concerned or the Divisional Veterinary Officer for action.

### Pasteurised Milk

In 24 cases, the Methylene Blue Test was declared void, but in 3 cases failures were reported. One of these failures was of milk from a vending machine and investigation showed the chilling mechanism to be faulty. The other two failures were from milk supplied to schools.

### Cream

All four samples of cream failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, possibly due to the test being not particularly suitable.

The matter was reported to the Council together with a precis of the recommendations of a Working Party of the Public Health Laboratory Service, whereupon the Council approached the Association of Municipal Corporations for their observations.

It would appear desirable for a reliable test to be introduced to judge the keeping quality of cream.

### Milk Bottles

During the year, eight batches of washed milk bottles (12 bottles per batch) were submitted for a check on the efficiency of the bottle washing plant.

In every case the reports were satisfactory.

### Legal Proceedings

During 1964, proceedings were instigated against a nearby dairy for failing to ensure that a milk churn was thoroughly clean before being used.

The churn, containing six gallons of milk, had been delivered to the kitchens of a local hospital.

The firm pleaded guilty to an offence under Regulation 27 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 and were fined £30.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Three licensed slaughterhouses continued in operation during 1964.

### Private Abattoir, The Chase

The throughput trebled due to a marked increase in numbers of cattle and sheep and a slight increase in pigs. Slaughtering facilities are offered to local butchers. A chill room was completed in time for use during the summer months.

The company purchased additional land contiguous with their southern boundary. Outline planning permission has been given for additional lairage, office accommodation, additional chill room and a frozen meat depot. It is anticipated that detail plans will be submitted during 1965, with building to commence as soon as possible. At the same time, internal alterations to the slaughterhall will be carried out to allow two lines of slaughter to continue simultaneously.

The average times of slaughter have been -

Monday:	8.0 a.m. - 9.0 p.m.
Tuesday:	8.0 a.m. - 8.0 p.m.
Wednesday:	8.0 a.m. - 8.0 p.m.
Thursday:	8.0 a.m. - 6.0 p.m.
Friday:	8.0 a.m. - 6.0 p.m.
Saturday:	8.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.

### Private Slaughterhouse, Oil Mill Lane

No change in throughput or structural conditions. Facilities available to other butchers.

The average times of slaughter -

Monday:	8.0 a.m. - 7.0 p.m.
Tuesday:	9.0 a.m. - 6.0 p.m.
Wednesday:	9.0 a.m. - 6.0 p.m.

### Private Slaughterhouse, Tinkers Drove

No change in throughput or structural conditions. Pigs only slaughtered for exclusive use of the owner.

The site including two dwellinghouses, lairage, slaughterhouse and pasture land, in all over 4 acres, subject to the terms of a Compulsory Purchase Order under Part V, Housing Act, 1957. Final settlement is pending the hearing and decision of the Lands Tribunal but it is anticipated that the land will be required during 1965. The slaughterhouse owner who operates a busy pork and pork products business is anxious to maintain his individual right to slaughter but I know of no alternative plans to ensure this arrangement.

The average times of slaughter -

Monday:	8.0 a.m. - 2.0 p.m.
Tuesday:	8.0 a.m. - 2.0 p.m.
Wednesday:	8.0 a.m. - 2.0 p.m.
Thursday:	8.0 a.m. - 2.0 p.m.

At the expense of other work it has been possible to ensure 100% meat inspection. The case load is such now as to warrant the employment of a full time officer to cover the establishments in The Chase and Oil Mill Lane.

Charges initiated in October, 1963 under the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 were maintained at the maximum figure to bring about £1,400 which contributed towards the overall cost of the service.

Disposal of byproducts caused some concern during the summer months. The frequency of collection and type of vehicle were not satisfactory. Arising from representations to the slaughterhouse management, hide and skin merchants and bye-product users a daily collection has been instigated using vehicles incorporating assisted loading devices. Animal blood is the only bye-product which remains unused and this is discharged into the public sewers.

The year provided opportunity to observe a marked change in the type of beef cattle. Light weight barley beef cattle produce the conformation so sought after by customers today. A high incidence rate of pyaemic foci in the liver region were noted.

\* \* \*

There is no Knackers Yard within the Borough, although two such premises are available within 10 miles of Wisbech.

Number of animals slaughtered during the year ending  
31st December, 1964

	Cattle, exclud- -ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	6,819	45	11	7,220	8,438	1,343
Number inspected	6,819	45	11	7,220	8,438	1,343
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	13	3	1	48	36	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,182	15	5	92	552	97
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	17.5%	40%	54.5%	1.9%	6.9%	7.8%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	104	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.03%	-	-	-	1.2%	2.3%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of animals slaughtered - 23,876



Quantities Condemned

Tuberculosis ..... 1,607 lbs.  
Other Diseases ..... 31,517 lbs.  

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33,124 lbs.

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The details of slaughtering carried out within the Borough during the past five years is as follows:-

Year	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs incl. sows and boars	Total number of animals expressed in Cattle Units
1960	1,772	22	2,640	10,548	7,581
1961	1,774	15	2,554	9,650	7,115
1962	2,072	16	2,384	9,538	7,323
1963	2,392	5	2,739	9,689	7,785
1964	6,864	11	7,220	9,781	13,202

Licences to Slaughter and Stun Animals

19 persons were licensed to slaughter and stun animals.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

The following items of food were sent to the Peterborough Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Orange Drink ..... 1  
Milk Powder ..... 2

All of the samples were free from food poisoning organisms.

COMPLAINTS OF UNSATISFACTORY FOOD

During 1964, the department dealt with 9 formal complaints relating either to foreign bodies in food or unfitness of food.

In the following 5 cases the facts were reported to the Council:-

Jute fibres in white bread  
Unsound pre-packed bacon  
Cockroach leg in loaf of bread  
Fly in pork cheese  
Grease and fibres in loaf of bread



The firms concerned were given formal warning that a repetition of the offence would result in legal proceedings being taken.

The Council were also advised of a complaint of glass in corned beef and the matter was referred to the Ministries of Food and Health for their further investigation.

In respect of two cases concerning mould on bread and a fly grub in meat pasty, the matters were investigated by the public health inspectors who, after investigation, were satisfied that the firms concerned had taken all possible steps to prevent a recurrence of the offence and that legal proceedings were not warranted in these cases.

In one case, legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the sale of a brown loaf of bread containing fragments of lead. A fine of £10 was imposed on the manufacturing firm.

#### FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses .....	12
Cafes .....	11
Grocers and General Mixed Stores .....	59
Greengrocers .....	11
Fishmongers .....	5
Fried Fish Shops .....	13
Butchers .....	29
Food Factories .....	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (Processors) ...	13
Flour Millers and Granary .....	2
Licensed Premises and Registered Clubs ...	65
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	1
Market Stalls .....	35
Confectioners .....	16

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in food premises.

Sinks provided .....	1
Hot water provided .....	4
Wash-hand basins provided .....	3
Premises repaired .....	1
W.C's provided .....	1
W.C's repaired .....	3
Artificial lighting .....	2
Cleansed and redecorated .....	4
Ventilation .....	1

## Food Hygiene

Nearly all of the licensed public houses in the town were inspected during the year and schedules of defects sent to the owning breweries. In many cases the sanitary accommodation needed renovation, re-decoration and the provision of artificial lighting. Most cellars were in need of re-deccration and an improvement in artificial lighting.

The breweries accepted the reports in principle but, regrettably, in most cases were reluctant to provide hot water to the public wash-hand basins.

It would be wrong to omit mention of the markets in Wisbech. The Saturday market leaves much to be desired and it is to be hoped that when the change in ownership of the stalls takes place there will be improvements in both the market layout and the provision of equipment.

Fruit and vegetable auctions are regularly held at two premises in the town and it is pleasing to note the increased use of new types of specially made non-returnable containers. However, the misuse of animal feeding sacks for this purpose is to be deprecated.

## UN SOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughter-houses, were found unfit and surrendered.

### Tins

Meat .....	115
Fruit and Vegetables .....	121
Milk and Cream .....	6
Fish .....	<u>11</u>
	<u>253</u>

### Various

Frozen Foods .....	257 packets
Jam .....	38 jars
Fish .....	76 lbs.
Confectionery .....	28 lbs.
Chocolate .....	144 bars
Fresh Fruit .....	3 crates
Cake Mixes .....	44 packets
Milk .....	6 gallons
Meat Pies .....	18

### Animal Food Factory

One animal food processing factory operates within the Borough which handles a considerable amount of unsound meat much of which arrives from abroad. Effective control is maintained in the handling of the products and frequent visits are made by the Inspectors. At all times the factory management has afforded full co-operation.

During the year a new cold store was brought into operation for the storage of large quantities of fish, meat and offal prior to processing. This must show benefits in that the ingredients must be in better condition prior to processing and less likely to give offence. Reconstruction of the factory itself was also commenced during the year and should provide better working conditions for employees and less chance of noise nuisance to nearby houses.

### ICE CREAM

113 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 112 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

72 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination during the year with the following results:-

Grade I .....	37
Grade II .....	10
Grade III .....	10
Grade IV .....	12

3 samples of ice cream were void.

Mention must be made of the high failure rate. Nearly one third of the samples failing to reach the accepted standard (22 out of 69). In no case of failure was wrapped ice cream involved.

Eight failures related to mobile vans using soft serve machines and samples of mix were taken before and after freezing. An improvement in cleaning methods brought a similar improvement in sample results.

The remaining 14 samples that failed the test were traced to faulty handling techniques due to a failure to keep the ice cream scoop in a suitable sterilising agent. Again the advice of your inspectors was accepted and subsequent samples were more satisfactory.



CLEAN AIR ACT

Only one contravention of the Dark Smoke Regulations was observed during the year.

The grit nuisance from the boiler chimney of a dry cleaning plant mentioned in last year's report was finally abated by the installation of a new oil-fired plant and taller metal chimney.

Complaints were received of smut emission from the chimney of a horticultural firm. This appears to be what is known as "acid smut" and is usually found where an oil-fired boiler is associated with a steel chimney. Investigations have been carried out to ascertain the exact cause of the trouble and certain preventative works undertaken at the time of writing.

During the year approval was given to the installation of three new boiler plants as follows:-

1. One "Marshall" Packaged Multipass Smoke Tube type boiler at Sketchleys Limited, 28/29 High Street, Wisbech and designed to burn oil.
2. One "Britannia" Sectional type boiler at Wisbech Plant Company Limited, Lynn Road, Wisbech and designed to burn oil.
3. One "Burgess European" treble pass type boiler at H. Prins Limited, Lynn Road, Wisbech and designed to burn oil.

## HOUSING

### A SLUM CLEARANCE

The Wisbech No. 25 (Cannon Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1964 comprising 17 houses was made during the year and a local public inquiry on behalf of the Minister of Housing and Local Government was held. All objections were withdrawn before the inquiry.

Three further Clearance Areas (The Wisbech No. 26 (Prospect Place), No. 27 (Prospect Place) and No. 28 (New Street) Clearance Areas) were represented to the Council in December with a view to Compulsory Purchase Orders being made early in 1965. The total number of houses in the areas was 47 and of other buildings was 3.

During the year a survey of unfit houses was made and a revised slum clearance programme approved by the Council. This covered approximately 872 houses in the next 12 years.

It was pleasing to see that a number of single persons and couples are being rehoused from Clearance Areas into newly built old persons bungalows and enabling the demolition of houses in the areas to be completed. The building of the warden block in Elizabeth Terrace is now under way and should assist greatly in the rehousing of elderly persons.

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining .....	872
Number of years necessary to deal with above houses	12
Applicants on waiting list at end of year .....	218
Houses completed in 1964: Wisbech Corporation .....	115
Private enterprise .....	26
Total post war houses completed .....	1,465

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere  
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1964

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>In Clearance Areas</u>			
Houses unfit for human habitation	55	102	52
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	1	16	7
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	5	8	4
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	Number		
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and 26 Housing Act, 1961	2	4	1
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED		By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by local authority		18	-
After formal action under Public Health Acts		3	-
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957		-	-

Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at:-

Clearance Areas - 59

8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and 14A Agenoria Street.  
 3 Boyden Street.  
 4,5,6,7,8 and 9 Elizabeth Terrace.  
 5,6,7,8,9,10,13,14,17,18,19,20,21,22,30 and 31 George Street.  
 1,2,3,21,22 and 23 Henry Street.  
 1,2,7,8,9,10 and 11 Kirkgate Street.  
 61 and 63 Lerowe Road.  
 7,18,19,23,24 and 25 Napier Terrace.  
 26 and 27 Trafalgar Row.  
 1,2,3,4 and 5 Whitby Street.

Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Formal Action - 1

16 Canal Row.

(b) Informal Action - Nil

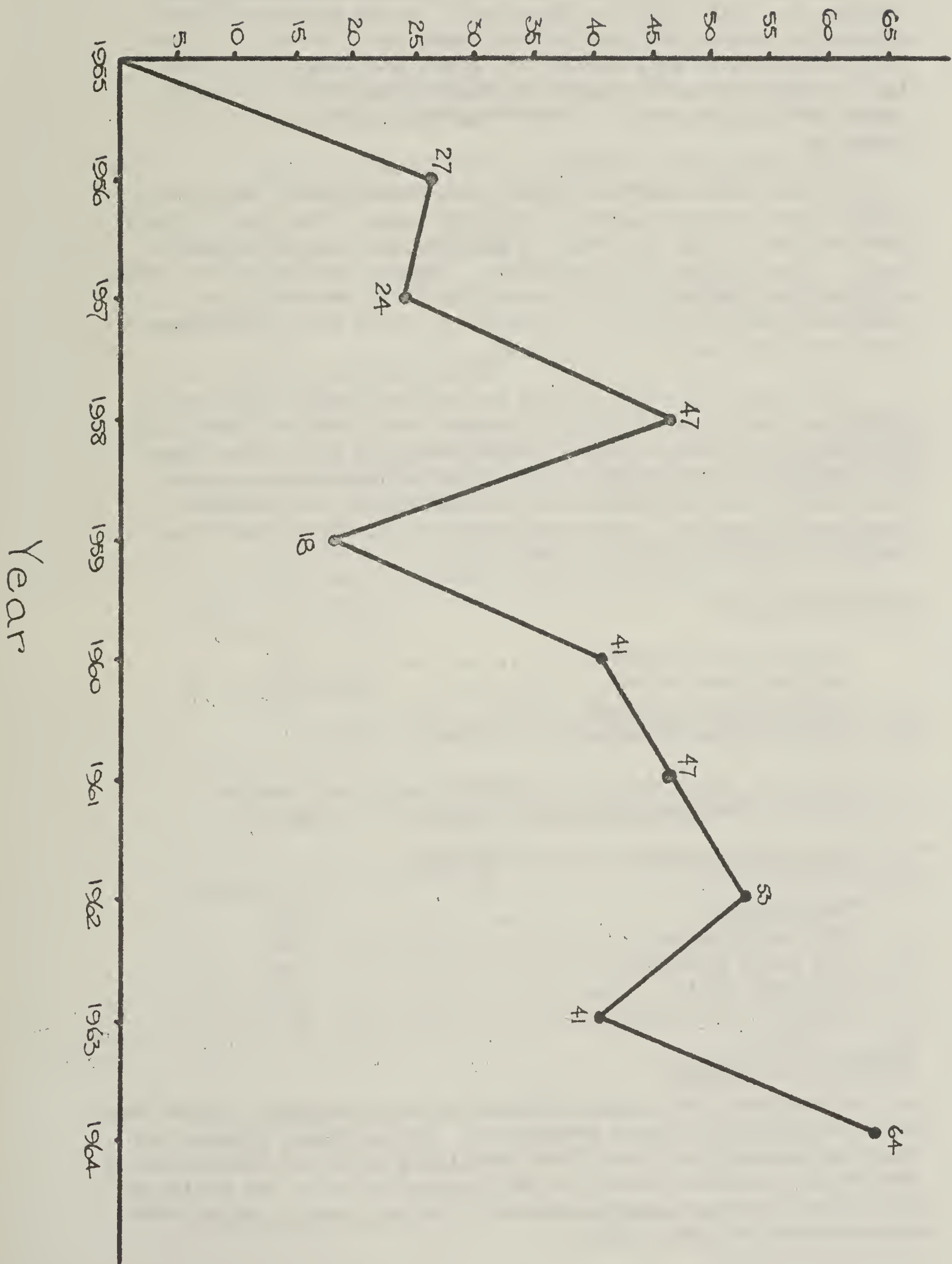
Council Owned Properties - 5

6,7,8,9 and 10 Woodyard.



# FAMILIES DISPLACED FROM UNFIT HOUSES

Families displaced.



## B. IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

The autumn of 1964 saw the welcome introduction of the Housing Act, 1964 with its amendments to the amount of grant allowable towards the provision of amenities. One applicant only withdrew his application for grant and reapplied after the commencement of the Act, so availing himself of a larger grant towards the cost of converting his outbuildings into a bathroom.

It was also noted with some satisfaction that compulsory powers were made available in certain cases. The gist of this part of the act was reported to the Council, who recommended that a pilot scheme be undertaken. Towards the end of the year, a survey was carried out of areas likely to benefit from compulsory improvement and culminated in the first improvement area being declared in early 1965.

The number of applications for discretionary improvement grants showed a considerable increase over previous years and, in all cases, were used to create self-contained flats from large old houses. The resulting small units of accommodation are fulfilling a useful purpose in the housing of newly-weds, teachers, nurses etc. who experience difficulty in securing small well equipped flats in the town.

### Standard Grants

Applications received .....	35
Applications passed .....	35
Applications rejected - unfit .....	0
Applications withdrawn .....	1

Cases in which work was completed and grant paid:-  
38 applications for a total of £4,290.2s.6d.

Amenities provided with aid of grants:-

Bathrooms .....	30
Wash-hand basins .....	36
Hot water systems .....	35
Internal W.C's .....	36
Larders .....	21

### Discretionary Grants

During the year, applications for discretionary grants were made in respect of three properties. In one case, grants were paid on each of the three flats resulting from the conversion of one house. Another house has been converted into two flats and, at a third house, a self-contained flat has been provided above an existing business office.

Discretionary Grants cont'd .....

Applications received .....	3
Applications passed .....	3
Applications rejected .....	0
Applications withdrawn .....	0

Cases in which work was completed and grant paid:-  
5 flats from 2 houses for a total of £1,397.12s.10d.

Council House Improvements

Thirty council owned houses were improved during the year.

C. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The 'Harp Inn', Canal Road, in the Council's ownership continued in use throughout the year. Originally registered for use by 22 persons, no new lodgers are accepted and there now remain some ten persons in permanent residence.

Vagrants have created public health problems amongst the vacant properties in clearance areas. There is now no Common Lodging House or Reception Centre within many miles of Wisbech.

D. ALMSHOUSES

The present occupancy of Almshouses within the Borough is as follows:-

Address	Total Number	No. Occupied.	Remarks
King's Walk	12	4	Scheduled for proposed Clearance, 1968
Love Lane	5	0	To be demolished
Stermyn Street	6	4	Scheduled for proposed Clearance, 1968
Canal Side	5	5	Scheduled for proposed Clearance, 1968
Lynn Road	5	5	Scheduled for proposed Clearance, 1969



Almshouses cont'd .....

No apparent progress has been made by local charities, either individually or collectively, towards the provision of new almshouses.

Alternatively the Borough Council are building more units of accommodation for aged persons which include bungalows, flats and a wardens block in course of construction.

E. RENT ACT, 1957  
(Return for the year 1964)

1.	Number of applications for certificates .....	1
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates .....	0
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates -	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects .....	1
	(b) in respect of all defects .....	0
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule .....	0
5.	Number of undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first schedule	0
6.	Number of certificates issued .....	1
7.	Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates .....	1
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	0
9.	Decision by local authority to cancell in spite of tenant's objection .....	0
10.	Certificates cancelled by local authority .....	1

# HOUSING PROBLEMS



Itinerant caravans on disused land



Slum Clearance - Wisbech N° 25 (Cannon St.) C.P.O. 1964







## CARAVANS

### Residential

During 1964 the following caravan sites were in operation:-

Address	Site licence for	Average No. of vans on site	Remarks
Ingleborough Site, Osborne Road.	20	22	Excess vans since moved.
Poplar Site, Osborne Road.	6	6	
Broadway Site, Osborne Road.	30	33	A further 10 vans were stationed on land at rear of site.
Hennells Site, Magazine Lane.	16	14	

Further efforts were made to bring the sites up to the required standard and in July summonses were served in respect of the Ingleborough and Poplar Sites and Hennells Site.

The works of improvement to both Osborne Road sites were completed by the time<sup>of</sup> the Court hearing and summonses were withdrawn.

The owner of the Magazine Lane site pleaded guilty to all 10 of the charges brought against him and was fined £50.

At the time of writing licences have been granted for considerable extensions to both the Broadway and Magazine Lane sites which should prevent site overcrowding and provide sufficient amenities.

Rehousing people from caravans still caused problems for the Council and the introduction of a British Standard relating to size and suitability of caravans will be welcomed as a guide.

### Roving type vans

The onset of the soft fruit season again brought its problems from numerous didicoy vans moving into the area. The filled in canal and green droves being the usual parking grounds. Informal measures were instituted and resulted in keeping the vans off these sites for most of the time.

I am still of the opinion that a suitably laid out site set up in the area would be the only satisfactory solution to the problem.

# FACTORIES

Regular visits have been made to premises and houses in which work is carried out.

## Factories Act, 1937 - 1959

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority .....	15	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority .....	104	5	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	122	7	-	-

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of prosecutions instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding .....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient .....	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable .....	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Disrepair .....	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outwork) .....	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-



Factories cont'd .....

3. Outwork

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for fail-ing to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	None	None	None	None	None
Stringing labels	55	None	None	None	None	None

NON-INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Shops Act Administration

The Borough Council carry out the administration of all aspects of Shop Legislation. That is the control of trading hours, staff working hours, early closing in addition to health and welfare standards.

Two matters of interest have been noticed during the year in respect of half-day closing and hours of trading. Certain sections of the retail traders now close their shops for one full day per week. On the other hand several enquiries have been received regarding the possibilities of shops remaining open for six days per week, with no half-day closing. Although the latter may be permissive in certain instances and the trader may intend to ensure no deterioration in staff conditions, problems arise in small establishments during holiday and sickness. During the year the Council made an order pursuant to Section 3 of the Shops Act, 1950 fixing Friday as the late day for the opening of shops in the Borough.

It is often remarked that abroad "shopping round the clock " is the rule rather than the exception. On the contrary laws fixing times at which shops will close apply in Denmark, Germany, Finland, Luxemburg, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Austria and to a less extent Italy. Freedom to keep open is available to traders in Portugal, Spain, Greece and Turkey.

### Offices, Shops & Railway Premises

The majority of the sections of this Act came into force during the year, together with Regulations dealing specifically with washing facilities, sanitary conveniences, first aid and dangerous machinery. Although the requirements of the Act are relatively simple to enforce, complications arose concerning whether certain premises were the responsibility of the Local Authority or of the Factory Inspector and also of whether premises came within the scope of the Act or not. It cannot be said that guidance from the Ministry of Labour was lacking as thirteen circulars (one with eight supplements) have been issued so far.

The first task was the registration of premises and, despite national and local publicity the number registered by the required date was obviously far below the number who should have done so. A rapid survey was carried out and letters sent to those firms who it appeared were not registered with far better results than previously.

By the end of the year inspections of premises had commenced and at the time of writing a systematic inspection of all offices and shops is in progress.

It has been something of a pleasant surprise to find that most firms have anticipated the requirements of the Act and carried out some improvements to staff facilities leaving few matters for comment when officially inspected.

### Agriculture

It appears that the requirements of the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 are reasonably well met in the agricultural holdings in the Borough.

It was found necessary to serve one notice in respect of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at one premises in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Return for the year 1964

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses incl. Council houses	All other including business premises	Totals of cols. 1,2 & 3	
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Number of properties in local authority's district	88	5,659	1,358	7,105	176
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	4	123	20	147	4
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	3	1	1	5	0
Common Rat: Minor	1	99	13	113	4
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Ship Rat: Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Major	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Minor	-	23	6	29	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	4	32	168	204	3
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	2	-	4	6	2
Common Rat: Minor	-	28	11	39	1
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Ship Rat: Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Major	-	-	1	1	-
House Mouse: Minor	-	4	-	4	-
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	4	8	79	91	-
5. Number of infested properties in secs. 2,3 & 4 treated by local authority	7	158	38	203	7



WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Number inspected</u>		<u>Number of ships reported as having or having had, during voyage infectious disease on board</u>
			<u>by the P.H.I.</u>	<u>by the M.O.H.</u>	
Foreign Ports	120	31,180 N.R. 64,523 Cargo	120	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	128	16,361 N.R. 37,089 Cargo	59	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	248	47,541 N.R. 101,612 Cargo	179	Nil	Nil

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic. Number of Passengers - Inwards: Nil  
Number of Passengers - Outwards: Nil

Cargo Traffic. Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, potash, sugar, timber and pig iron.  
Principal Exports: Bricks, bulbs and apples.  
Principal Ports from which ships arrive:  
London, Stettin, Pateniemi, Immingham, Leningrad, Gdansk, Hull, Amsterdam, Hamina, Rotterdam, Wismar, Delfzijl and Kotka.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year from ships from Foreign Ports.

This is not applicable as the port is not an "approved port" or a "designated approved port". However, at the end of the year the approval of the Ministry of Health was obtained to an arrangement whereby the Port Health Inspectors of the Borough of Wisbech will act as the agents of the King's Lynn Borough Council in the issue of deratting exemption certificates for the Port of Wisbech.

Sanitation and Food Hygiene in the Port Area

Supervision was maintained over the water supplies to ships, the import of foodstuffs and the sanitary accommodation provided for port workers.







